REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicants have cancelled Claims 21-40 since the claims are drawn to a non-elected invention. Therefore, the claims remaining for consideration by the Examiner are Claims 1-20 and 41-46.

The Examiner has required an election under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to the subject matter of:

Group I. Claims 1-20, 41-46 drawn to a composition, classified in class 424, subclass 452.

Group II. Claims 21-40 drawn to a method of using, classified in class 208 subclass 528.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants elect to prosecute the election of Group I, Claims 1-20 and 41-46, without traverse.

Further, the Examiner has required Applicants to elect a species from Claims 3 and 19 and a species from Claim 7.

In response, Applicants select an Aluminum/Aluminum gas exchange non-permeable blister packaging as the species from Claims 3 and 19, and tablets as the species from Claim 7.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned should the Examiner believe that such contact would expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Novartis
Corporate Intellectual Property
One Health Plaza, Building 104
East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080
(609) 627-8507

John D. Thallemer
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 34,940

Date: January 22, 2007